

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Tuesday, April 22, 2013

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

4:30 p.m. – Executive Session

6:00 p.m. - Regular School Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma, Vice-Chairman

Liana Fenton

Paul Mankofsky

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:03

p.m. Administrative staff members present were Michelle Fonseca, Gail Abromitis and Linda Beaupre. Stephen Ponte arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mrs. Spengler announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for April 22, 2013.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Teacher of the Year – Dr. Sharon Bissionnette was honored as 2013 Middletown Teacher of the Year.**
- National Teacher Day – Dr. Sharon Bissionnette accepted the proclamation on behalf of all Middletown teachers.**
- National Volunteer Week – PTG Presidents Rachel Williams, Claudia Cooper, and Kelly Muir accepted the proclamation on behalf of all Middletown volunteers.**

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To move New Business up on the agenda. Unanimous vote.

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NEW BUSINESS

Sailing Club – Brad Read spoke in support of forming a Sailing Club for grades 9-12 during the spring season. The season runs from April 1st through the first week of June. Currently, 81 schools in New England have sail teams, including 23 in Rhode Island. They are asking to be a self-sustaining club. They have already raised funds to pay for insurance and will pay for a coach. The group will have a policy in 24 hours to the School Department. Students are never on the water without a coach or adult. All students wear dry suits.

Mrs. Fenton asked if they have considered a Newport County Team. Mr. Reed said that collaborative teams cannot compete.

Mrs. Spengler asked if they plan on being incorporated. Mr. Read said that they do plan on this. Sail Newport is willing to adopt the club until they have a LLC.

Mr. Mankofsky asked what kind of insurance the Gaudet Soccer Club has. Mr. Mankofsky asked if they are going to form a club like soccer,

why do they need permission from the School Committee. Mr. Read said that NESSA (New England Schools Sailing Association) needs sign off from the district that they support and recognize the club. NESSA is a group of schools that runs the New England district of the Scholastic Sailing Association.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. To support the endorsement of a sailing club, contingent on getting documentation approved by Middletown Public Schools legal department.

AMENDED MOTION; 1) Paul Mankofsky, 2) William O'Connell. To support the endorsement of a sailing club that is self-supported and modeled after the soccer club, contingent on getting documentation approved by Middletown Public Schools legal department. Unanimous vote.

Mrs. Kraeger would like to receive all copies of waivers and documents. This will be an endorsed activity, but not sponsored by the school department.

A brief recess was taken. The meeting was called back to order at 7:00 p.m.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No "Student Activities" for April 22, 2013.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- List of upcoming meetings and events.**
- Military Child Appreciation Day events.**
- Letter from the R.I. Department of Education regarding the audit .**

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CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for April 22, 2013.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of March 25, 2013 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Quarterly Report**

•Approval of the following vouchers:

Vouchers March 27 to April 12, 2013

Voucher Number Date Total

1316 3/27/2013 \$855.00

1320 3/28/2013 \$475,547.32

1319 3/28/2013 \$111,285.00

1318 3/28/2013 \$1,388.64

1317 3/28/2013 \$43,364.78

1326 4/1/2013 \$1,060.18

1325 4/1/2013 \$110.00

1324 4/1/2013 \$533.36

1323 4/1/2013 \$329,885.59

1322 4/1/2013 \$22,233.73

1321 4/1/2013 \$91,741.58

1337 4/4/2013 \$708.75

1336 4/4/2013 \$1,095.00

1335 4/4/2013 \$589.10

1334 4/4/2013 \$6,332.25

1333 4/4/2013 \$177,570.82

1340 4/9/2013 \$2,709.50

1339 4/9/2013 \$1,443.00

1338 4/9/2013 \$524.00

1343 4/10/2013 \$1,624.00

1342 4/10/2013 \$70,306.61

1341 4/10/2013 \$33,804.63

1344 4/11/2013 \$13,110.00

1345 4/12/2013 \$7,053.39

Total \$1,394,876.23

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SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS AS OF MARCH 14, 2013

Hannah Luther Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse

Catherine Butler Boys' Assistant Varsity Track

Rob Field Unified Basketball

Anthony Geer Freshman Baseball

CLARIFICATION OF RESIGNATION ORIGINALLY REPORTED ON JANUARY 17, 2013 PERSONNEL MEMO

RESIGNATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETIREMENT AS OF JANUARY 8, 2013

Michael Johnson Custodian, Facilities Management Department

ACTION ITEMS

No “Action Items” for April 22, 2013.

OLD BUSINESS

•**Key Communicators Program** – A brochure is being developed. The first meeting will be held on May 20th. This will be advertised on-line and the schools will send information to parents.

•**Safety Update** – In conjunction with the Middletown Police Department, safety surveys audits been completed. The next step is to sit down with the Town to discuss what needs to be addressed. The next Safety Advisory Committee Meeting is May 14th. Quotes were submitted to the Town for PA systems at Forest Avenue and Aquidneck Schools. This item will be on the Town Council docket for next Monday.

•**Shared Services** – There has been talk with the Council about shared services. Mrs. Kraeger has spoken to Superintendents on the island and Tiverton. She has already met with Dr. Ambrogio from Newport. The initial conversation was promising. Mrs. Kraeger would like to meet with all the school committees involved. School Committee members would like to meet with just one group first.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•**CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Savastano reported that work is continuing on the Social Studies curriculum. Cassie Erkins will meet with teachers on May 6th regarding building formative and summative assessments. School Committee Members are welcome to attend. Wireless Classroom Initiative - \$20 million has been allocated as part of the Governor's budget. Twelve vendors on the State bid list will do walkthroughs. This will help to expand our existing wireless. Currently, we can

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only support 1/3 of our students. Before the next School Committee Meeting on May 16th, there will be a State required Report Night.

•**FINANCIAL** – Business Manager Raquel Pellerin has been appointed to the R.I. Association of School Business Officials Executive Committee. They have asked that all districts hold off on adding monthly reporting to meeting minutes. When a standard format is set, there will be more discussion. Middletown is operating with a positive cash flow and on target with revenue expenses. Hot lunch prices need to be reviewed for next year.

•**FACILITIES** – In March there were 302 work order requests, with 210

completed. There are currently 92 in the process of being completed.

June is a heavy month for work orders due to people putting in requests before school ends. There will be a recommendation on the Lighting Bid at the May meeting. Salve Regina University will be covering half of the bill. There was a complaint from a citizen regarding the flag at Gaudet School being torn at the corner. A new flag was already on order.

Mrs. Kraeger said that at the May School Committee Meeting, there will be a proposal to extend the current bus contract. Ocean State Transit knows the community and provides enough drivers who know the area. They are less expensive than State transportation. Ocean State has provided fan busses for Championship games.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mr. O'Connell attended the National School Boards Association Annual Meeting in San Diego. He attended sessions on Common Core Standards, Collaboration Between Districts, Accountability, and Technology. The closing session was led by Diane Ravitch, a nationally recognized education researcher.

Mrs. Fenton attended a R.I. Partnership Project Meeting. This consists of many groups of people getting together to support economic development and post-secondary education. The group will begin to work on 4 major areas; Internships, One-Stop Shopping, Adult Learners, and Loan Programs.

Mrs. Fenton also attended the Governor's Workforce Board Meeting. 52% of present jobs will need an Associate's Degree or beyond. Commissioner Gist talked about the diploma system.

Mr. Mankofsky attended a meeting on collaboration. At the meeting, North Smithfield and Smithfield talked about their areas of collaboration.

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Mr. Mankofsky is working with the Cyber Patriot Program. The entry fee is covered if we have a mentor. There is work to get the salary for the student advisor or teacher covered.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma , 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk